

# The Prairie Light Review

---

Volume 10  
Number 2 *timepeace*

Article 52

---

Spring 5-1-1991

## In the Republic of Fear

Glen H. Brown  
*College of DuPage*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr>

---

### Recommended Citation

Brown, Glen H. (1991) "In the Republic of Fear," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 10 : No. 2 , Article 52.  
Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol10/iss2/52>

This Selection is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at DigitalCommons@COD. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prairie Light Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@COD. For more information, please contact [orenick@cod.edu](mailto:orenick@cod.edu).

## IN THE REPUBLIC OF FEAR

*Glen H. Brown*

Wisdom and madness flew together  
in an arc of night.  
With crazed eyes and clenched toes,  
they winged without sleep  
and rumbled in a fever of impatience,  
launched by megalomania.  
Like big-time killers,  
the armchair commanders  
lit up the international arcade.

"The world could wait no longer,"  
we were told, and we rushed  
into the unknowable,  
our world tilted by a Desert Storm,  
slowly choking in a fiery air.

We were not shown the faceless  
or dismembered. But we listened  
with false calm as sorties unleashed  
a raucous sky, leaving behind bursts  
of imagination and salvos of fear.

How was it to live among threats  
of glass and concrete, mustard gas,  
sirens and foreboding clouds  
of hydrogen sulfide?  
When we dropped our payload,  
the smoke rose from behind upturned thumbs.